

IN THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please **AMEND** claims in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A client/server system comprising:
a server, comprising:

client-side software at the server to generate operating instructions for an I/O device connected to a client;

a client-side device driver to function at the server as a client-side device driver for input-output control of a client-side I/O port controlling the I/O device connected to the client ~~as the client-side I/O device~~, based on the operating instructions from the client-side software at the server; and

a virtual I/O port to function at the server to provide the client-side device driver at the server with an interface having same function as an I/O port at the client as the client-side I/O port for the client-side device driver at the server as a client-side I/O port interface to the device driver by transmitting an input-output control received from the client-side device driver at the server and informing the client-side device driver at the server of an event received client-side from the I/O device event connected to the client; and

a client communicably connectable in communication with the server and communicably connectable with the client-side connected to the I/O device, the client comprising:

a client-side device handler to receive the input-output control from the virtual I/O port in the server and to transmit the client-side I/O device event, from the I/O device connected to the client, to the server virtual I/O port in the server, and

a client-side I/O port to control the client-side wherein the I/O port at the client controls the I/O device connected to the client according to an input-output control from the client-side device handler.

2. (CANCELLED)

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A server in communication with a client, comprising: client-side software at the server to generate operating instructions for an I/O device of a client as a client-side I/O device connected to the client, the client communicably connected to the server, and the client communicably connectable via a client-side I/O port to the I/O device of the client;

a client-side device driver to function at the server as a client-side device driver for input-output control of thea client-side I/O port controlling the I/O device connected to the client, based upon the operating instructions from the client-side software at the server; and

a virtual I/O port to function at the server as a client-side I/O port interface to the device driver to provide the client-side device driver at the server with an interface having same function as an I/O port at the client as the client-side I/O port for the client-side device driver at the server by transmitting an input-output control signal received from the client-side device driver at the server to a client-side device handler of the client, the client-side device handler in communication via thea client-side I/O port at the client with the client-side I/O device, and by informing the client-side device driver at the server of a client-side I/O devicean event received from the client-side device handler.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A client in communication with the server, comprising:

a client-side device handler to receive input-output control for a client-side I/O device, from a serverclient-side device driver at the server through a servera virtual I/O port in the server communicably connected with the client, and to transmit a client-side I/O device event from the client to the serverclient-side device driver at the serverthrough the servervirtual I/O port at the server.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The client according to claim 4, further comprising:

at least one client-side I/O port, which is coupled with the client-side I/O device, and which is controlled by the client-side device driver in the server.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The client/server system of claim 1, wherein the

client-side I/O device is a bar code reader.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The client/server system of claim 1, wherein the client and server communicate via a LAN.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The client/server system of claim 1, wherein the client and server communicate via the WWW.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A client/server system comprising:
a client comprising:

at least one I/O device ~~connected to the server~~ in communication with the client as a client-side I/O device, and

~~a programmed computer processor to function as a device handlercontroller~~
handling data communication, including an I/O event from the at least one client-side I/O device, via a client-side I/O port ~~connected to~~ in communication with the at least one client-side I/O device; and

a server communicably connectable with the client and comprising:

~~a programmed computer processor to function at the server as controller~~
~~functioning as a client-side device driver at the server~~ for input-output control of the client-side I/O port controlling the I/O device connected to the client, and ~~to function at the server as a client-side I/O port interface~~ ~~functioning as an interface having same function as the client-side I/O port at the client as the client-side I/O port~~ to the ~~client-side device driver at the server~~ by transmitting an input-output control received from the ~~client-side device driver at the server~~ to the client ~~device handlercontroller~~ and informing the ~~client-side device driver at the server~~ of a client-side I/O ~~an~~ event received from the client ~~device handlercontroller~~.